

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title of the invention on page 1, line 1 as follows in marked-up form:

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"~~Insertion Devices~~ Platform Cannula for Guiding the Expansion of Expandable  
Bodies and Method of Use"

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 23 as follows in marked-up form:

a2 Fig. 1 depicts a vertebra 41 to be treated using an expandable structure 310. An insertion device ~~70~~ 200, such as a cannula or spinal needle, extends through the cortical bone 69 of the vertebra 41, and into the cancellous bone 71. An expandable structure 310 is introduced into the vertebra 41 through the insertion device ~~70~~ 200, and desirably expands within the cancellous bone 71, typically expanding outward in a spherical, cylindrical or other manner thereby creating a cavity. To avoid contacting the cortical bone 69 during expansion of the structure 310, a practitioner will typically position the insertion device ~~70~~ 200 a sufficient distance away from the cortical bone 69 to allow room for the structure 310 to expand outward. However, if the insertion device ~~70~~ 200 is positioned too close to the cortical bone 69, if the structure expands a greater amount towards the cortical bone 69 (such a where the cancellous bone is weaker in that direction), or if the intervening anatomy severely constrains placement of the insertion device to locations near the cortical bone 69, the expansion of the structure and cavity creation may be less than optimal.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 27 as follows in marked-up form:

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Figures 31-33 depict an alternate embodiment of an insertion device 600 constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention. The insertion device 600 comprises a hollow member 620 and an expandable structure 710. A handle 615 may be provided on the distal end of the hollow member ~~510~~ 620 to facilitate manipulation of the tool and/or introduction of a medium to expand the expandable structure 710. The hollow member 620, desirably having a lumen 622 extending therethrough, comprises a shaft 624 and a distal tip 625. The distal end 625 of the shaft 624 can be rounded or beveled to facilitate passage through cortical/cancellous bone, or can be or flattened to minimize opportunities for penetrating the opposite cortical wall of the targeted bone region. An opening or window 700 is formed in the shaft 624, with an expandable structure 710 desirably positioned within the lumen 622 at a location adjacent the window 700. Upon introduction of the insertion device 600 into a targeted bone region (not shown), the expandable structure 710 can be expanded (See Fig. 33, P1 to P2 to P3), and at least a portion of the expandable structure 710 will desirably expand through the window 700, thereby compressing cancellous bone, creating a cavity and/or displacing cortical bone. Upon contraction of the expandable structure 710, most of the expandable structure 710 will desirably be drawn back into the lumen 622 for removal of the device 600 from the vertebral body. If desired, the handle 615 and/or proximal end 612 of the hollow member ~~510~~ 620 can include markings (not shown) which indicate the orientation of the window 700 within the targeted bone region.